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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 10/813,374 | 03/30/2004 | Jan Raebiger | 2000.111300 | 4716 |
| 23720 | 7590 | 08/02/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C. 10333 RICHMOND, SUITE 1100 HOUSTON, TX 77042 | | | | BARRECA, NICOLE M |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1756 | | | | DATE MAILED: 08/02/2005 |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/813,374 | RAEBIGER ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Nicole M. Barreca | 1756 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/28/04; 7/27/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-23 in the reply filed on 6/6/05 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claim 24 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 6/6/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 8-9 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. Claims 8 and 19 recited open-ended numerical ranges. The claims fail to set a lower limit for the desired critical dimension. This open-ended range is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.
6. The equation in claims 9 and 20 is unclear. The claims recite the equation

$D_{target} = D_{initial} - a \cdot t - c - K \cdot R_{anti}$, while the specification [0034] recites

$D_{target} = D_{initial} - a \cdot t - c \cdot K \cdot R_{anti}$. It is therefore unclear what is the intended operation between c and K. In addition a, t and c are not defined in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-7, 10-18, 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laaksonen (US 6,362,111) in view of Kim (US 6,352,922).

9. Polysilicon layer 20 (gate layer) is deposited on a semiconductor body 10. BARC layer is deposited over polysilicon gate layer 20. A layer of photoresist 32 is deposited over the BARC layer. A resist pattern 40 having a minimum dimension L_p (initial size) is formed on the BARC layer. The minimum dimension is determined by the lithographic limits of the tool being used. The total height (thickness) of the BARC and resist layers is optimized to minimize the standing wave effects and to ensure the pattern formed will survive the polysilicon layer etch. Resist 32 is overetched for line width reduction. The BARC and polysilicon are then etched during the reduced resist pattern. The timed overetch, by time or as a percentage of the main etch time, is used to achieve the desired reduction in line width. Reduced width pattern has a minimum dimension L_{rw} , less than L_p , which is the desired width of the polysilicon (desired critical dimension). See specifically col.2, 33-col.3,15 and col.5, 11-23. Laaksonen teaches that the

thickness of the BARC layer is optimized for lithographic and etching purposes but does not explicitly disclose determining at least one optical characteristic of the antireflective layer, such as reflectivity or extinction coefficient. However it is known in the art that optical characteristics of an antireflective layer, such as reflectivity, depend on its thickness. Kim teaches this in col.1, 64-66, col.3, 18-20 and 51-55. It would have been within the ordinary skill of one in the art to determine optical characteristics of the antireflective layer based on the optimized thickness in the method of Laaksonen because Kim teaches that the reflectivity of an antireflective layer is dependent on the layer thickness.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Aminpur (US 6,555,472) and Yang (US 6,107,172) disclose etch trimming using a photoresist and antireflective layer.
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicole M. Barreca whose telephone number is 571-272-1379. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (9AM-7PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F. Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nicole M Barreca
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1756

7/25/05

